

legend which, as related by the 'Annals of Li-yul', made Buddha symbolize at this spot the future draining of the waters covering Khotan?¹⁸

The name
Kohmārī.

In conclusion, the name now borne by the hill deserves brief notice. As pronounced by the people it sounds *Komārī*, but the written form adopted for it in the short *Tadhkirah* of the shrine and probably elsewhere is *Kohmārī*. According to a statement of M. Grenard, *Kohmārī* is interpreted to mean 'the snake of the mountain'—evidently a 'popular etymology' which takes the Persian words *kōh* 'mountain' and *mār* 'snake' for its foundation, without troubling itself about the non-Persian form of the supposed compound. M. S. Lévi ingeniously recognized in this etymology, whether true or not, a reminiscence of the *Gṛhapati* (Chi-li-ho-po-ti) *Nāga* whom the *Sūryagarbha-sūtra* names as inhabiting the site¹⁹. I am unable to express any definite opinion as to the real derivation of the name, except that it manifestly belongs to that extensive portion of the local nomenclature of Khotan which is of pre-Turkī origin. If it were shown that the Eastern *Īrānian* tongue once current in Khotan possessed the phonetic equivalents of Persian *kōh* and *mār*, the notice of the *Sūryagarbha-sūtra* would permit us to hazard the conjecture that the name originally meant 'the hill of the snake (i.e. *Nāga*)'.

SECTION II.—THE CULTURE-STRATA OF YŌTKAN

Apart from Mount *Gośṛṅga*, the position of which was indicated by unmistakable natural features, no attempt could be made to locate any of the other ancient sites of the Khotan oasis mentioned in our texts without previously determining the position of the ancient capital, for it is invariably with reference to the latter that *Hsüan-tsang* records those bearings and distances which alone can now guide us to the identification of minor sites. We have seen above that, according to the *Hsi-yü-chi*, Mount *Gośṛṅga* lay 20 li to the south-west of the capital, and that various notices of the Chinese Annals placed the latter between the *Yurung-kāsh* and the *Kara-kāsh* rivers. These data would not by themselves have sufficed for an exact location of the site had not a fortunate chance in recent times brought to light ample archaeological evidence which supplements them and removes all doubt.

Supply of
antiques
from
Yōtkan.

To M. Grenard belongs the merit of having first clearly recognized that the little village of *Yōtkan* in the *Borazān* canton, which had furnished a constant supply of antiques, such as ancient pottery, coins, gems, &c., to Khotan traders, as well as to previous European travellers, stands on ground once occupied by the ancient capital¹. A steady flow of antiques from *Yōtkan* has since M. Grenard's visit in 1891 reached public collections in Europe and India, largely through the purchases of the British and Russian representatives at *Kāshgar*, or else through acquisitions of European visitors to Khotan; but the information available as to the exact conditions in which those relics were found in such remarkable quantities, and the general character of the site, remained of the scantiest².

¹⁸ Compare above, p. 159; Rockhill, *Life of the Buddha*, p. 233.

¹⁹ Compare *Notes chinoises sur l'Inde*, iv. p. 40 note.

¹ See Grenard, *Mission D. de Rhins*, iii. pp. 127 sq. 128 sq.

² For brief notices of the locality compare Hedin, *Through Asia*, pp. 759 sq.; Hoernle, *Report on C.-A. antiquities*, i. pp. xii sq. (based on communications from Mr. Macartney and the Swedish Missionaries of *Kāshgar*).

In all these the site is inaccurately designated as 'Borazan', in reality the name of the canton to which the village of *Yōtkan* belongs. Dr. Hedin's chapter on 'Borasan and its archaeological remains' (loc. cit., pp. 759 sqq.) contains, besides good illustrations of antiques coming from *Yōtkan*, extracts from a paper published by M. Kiseritsky on the late M. Petrowsky's large collection of similar acquisitions. The original paper, quoted as being in the *Journal of the Imp. Russian Archaeological Society*, is not accessible to me.